

expenses seniors have for care, that average out-of-pocket expense rises by \$1,400 for an individual. If you think about it alone, the increase in health care out-of-pocket expenses basically wipes out where many seniors are for any kinds of remaining income. Certainly, if we put this kind of cut on top of that, it would make it clear that seniors would be getting less from Social Security. We recently, for the first time since 2009, gave seniors an increase to their cost-of-living adjustment. Now what are we going to do—go backward and take it away? For 75 years, Americans have been paying into Social Security with the promise that they would receive these benefits in their retirement years. Now is not a time to break that promise.

I think my colleague has clearly come to the floor with a message to our other colleagues who aren't here this afternoon, to say take a look at the details of this proposal. This is not a simple proposal about in the future someone is going to get less than they might under some other plan; this is about a cut in the benefit formula today that would impact seniors if implemented.

So I am here with my colleague to say our economic situation has not been caused by seniors coming to Capitol Hill and proposing that we have opaque derivative markets. It wasn't caused by seniors coming and saying: Let's go ahead and have the banks get rid of Glass-Steagall so the banks can do whatever they want. Seniors didn't come here and foist this economic situation on us. Yet, where are the other proposals to help fix that? Yet, the No. 1 proposal we saw circulating in July was, right off the bat, \$300 billion coming off the backs of seniors. That same proposal is still circulating in the Halls of Congress. My colleague and I are here this afternoon to say that it is not the proposal we should be considering.

So I hope our other colleagues will stand up to protect seniors, particularly women, who are living longer, and make sure they have these important Social Security benefits.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Would the Senator yield for a question?

Ms. CANTWELL. Yes.

Ms. MIKULSKI. First of all, I compliment the Senator for the really wonderful teaching she just did on this issue. She is a member of the Finance Committee, and with all they are doing in Social Security, hasn't there been a hearing in the Finance Committee on the chained CPI, and have experts and senior advocacy groups shared their views with the Congress?

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I can say to the Senator from Maryland that in my time period there, I don't remember any hearing or briefing on chained CPI that was the focus of the hearing. I don't know if in the last 15 or 20 years somebody hasn't suggested or had a hearing on it.

Ms. MIKULSKI. How many years has the Senator been on the committee?

Ms. CANTWELL. Two years.

Ms. MIKULSKI. In those 2 years, this has not come up.

I have another question about the Finance Committee, which also has jurisdiction over health care. Is it the Senator's understanding that both in the supercommittee and other reforms, Congress's intent is to raise premiums and copayments and a variety of other things on seniors? Is that one of those things out there in the ether?

Ms. CANTWELL. I can tell the Senator from Maryland that there are lots of ideas that people are suggesting. I don't know the details of the supercommittee or to say the Finance Committee is backing up the supercommittee on those ideas. I know we have to live within our budget, and we have to make some tough decisions.

There are many positives in the health care law that are about allowing seniors to stay in their homes and receive care as opposed to going into nursing homes, which is very positive and helps reduce significantly the cost of health care. There are things in there that will help us get more transparency on drug prices. Many of us would like to have direct negotiations on drug prices and drive the costs down even further for seniors. And obviously there are reforms that will help us get more efficient in the delivery system. Those are things you can accentuate by moving more quickly.

I know the Presiding Officer, coming from Minnesota, with the Mayo Clinic, certainly understands about outcome-based health care, preventive medicine, and those things seniors would like to see in reform that actually deliver better care and drive down costs. Those are the proposals that I think we should be discussing, that are positive for seniors, will help seniors, and will deliver the kind of care that is more efficient and cost-effective. But asking them to take it right on the chin with something like this proposal, as my colleague outlined as well, is something we are not willing to do.

I thank the Chair and the Senator from Maryland for her tireless leadership on behalf of women in America and making sure they can make do in this tough economy.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO JERRY MCENTEE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in 1965, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., called the organized labor movement, "the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress."

And for three decades, Jerry McEntee has been a leader in the quest for that progress.

As president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees since 1981, Jerry McEntee has been a driving force in the fight for a better life for American workers.

He has dedicated his union's resources to the struggle for greater economic and social justice for every man and woman in this Nation—regardless of age, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation or disability.

And he has literally given American workers a voice.

AFSCME has played a role in every struggle to protect collective bargaining rights, equal pay, good benefits, secure retirement, public services and worker opportunity for the last 75 years. And for more than 50 of those years, Jerry has been part of the fight.

At the helm of AFSCME, Jerry advocated for every piece of progressive legislation passed in the last three decades. The organization and dedication of Jerry and his 1.6 million brothers and sisters has been invaluable, whether we were raising the minimum wage or passing the Affordable Care Act.

And Democrats and our progressive allies are grateful for his leadership and support over the years.

As Jerry McEntee announces that he will retire next year from AFSCME's presidency, I am reminded that our work isn't over. Assaults on collective bargaining rights in Wisconsin and Ohio proved that.

The journey from misery and despair to hope and progress that Dr. King spoke of—a journey that Jerry McEntee has led for more than 30 years—is never truly over.

I look forward to working side by side with AFSCME, our friends in labor and all our progressive allies as we continue the work of my friend, Jerry McEntee.

The labor movement is better because of Jerry. America is a better place because of Jerry.

I congratulate Jerry on a career well spent in the pursuit of progress.

#### KENTUCKY ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Kentucky Army National Guard for surpassing its recruiting goal for the eighth consecutive year, a feat which appears to be without precedent in the U.S.

This recent achievement is indicative of the Kentucky Army National Guard's strong presence and dedicated service to the Commonwealth and to the Nation. Over 14,000 Kentucky Army and Air National Guard troops have

bravely served our country in overseas deployments since September 11, 2011.

Kentucky's National Guard has also been there to assist Kentuckians when disaster has struck. In the last four years alone, the Commonwealth's Guard has been mobilized nine times following disaster declarations in the State. The Guard has protected and served Kentuckians during and after a wide range of disasters that have wreaked havoc on the state, from floods and tornadoes to the 2009 ice storm. Kentucky's citizens owe a great debt of gratitude to the men and women of the Kentucky National Guard.

Today, on the eve of Veterans Day, I wish to honor the Kentucky Army National Guard for its dedication to better serving Kentucky, and Adjutant General Edward W. Tonini on the organization's continued achievements.

#### TRIBUTE TO DORIS AND MACKIE REAMS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a couple who truly exemplify the spirit of Kentucky. Mackie and Doris Reams have been happily married for 57 years and have lived an exciting and romantic life together in London, KY.

When Mackie, now 80, first saw Doris, he was about 20 and was working as a tobacco cutter in a field near her house; she was only 16 at the time. "I saw her a few times and I just got brave enough to ask her to go out," he recalled. "I couldn't resist those pretty blond curls . . . That's how it started. We went together for about three years before we got married." Mackie and Doris were married on October 3, 1953, by preacher Layton Vandaventer and have been inseparable ever since.

The couple lived in Mackie's parents' house on Old Salem Road for several years after they wed and worked on the family farm. Each day they milked 8 cows by hand and tended to 6,000 broiler chickens. "We fed and took care of them for nine weeks," recalls Doris, now 76. "Then Purina Company came and we loaded them on a truck that took them to a processing plant in Mt. Sterling."

In 1955, Mackie began a brief stint of service in the U.S. Army—his service ended in 1957. Afterwards, he began a career at Caron Spinning where he worked for 27 years. Doris was also employed at the Caron Spinning factory for almost 13 years until it finally closed down. Mackie's final job before he retired was as a door greeter at Walmart. "My legs and knees got to bothering me, standing there all the time," Mackie said. "So, I just quit. We just go and do whatever we want to do," he says in reference to their daily routine.

Each day the couple walks at Kmart every morning and visits the Laurel County Older Person Activity Center. "We play cards and play cornhole in the exercise room," Doris said. "We

have lunch. OPAC has a lot of things to do. They took us to the state fair this year," she explained. In what spare time they do have, Doris and Mackie also attend Calvary Baptist Church on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

"We have been very healthy and happy all our life together," Mackie and Doris are lucky enough to say. "We thank God for that."

Doris and Mackie Reams are an outstanding pair of Kentuckians who are truly blessed for the wonderful lifetime they have shared together. They are hard-working, caring citizens whose lifetime of success and happiness serves as an inspiration to the people of our great Commonwealth.

The Laurel County-area publication the Sentinel Echo recently published an article highlighting this couple's achievements over the years. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Sentinel Echo, Winter 2011]

TOGETHER, WHEREVER WE GO

(By Carol Mills)

Former Walmart greeter Mackie Reams met his wife Doris 60 years ago, and they have been happily married for 57 years. He is 80 and she is 76.

Their secret to staying in love for so long is they do everything together.

"We just went together wherever we were going, and we still do," Doris said.

Mackie said he lets her do all the shopping, but he goes with her. Sometimes he sits and waits on her to finish shopping, but he is always near.

"If we went somewhere, we took our kids with us and everybody went. That's just the way we lived."

Doris moved to Bill George Road from Knox County with her parents at a young age.

"I've lived around this territory ever since I was 10 years old," she said. "My dad owned all this country back in here where all the houses are. We just farmed. We raised tobacco and corn. After we got married, I worked for Caron Spinning. I worked there for 13 years until they closed out."

Mackie farmed at his parents' place on Old Salem Road. After he married Doris, the couple stayed with his parents for a couple of years. On his farm, they milked eight cows by hand twice a day for two years and sold the milk to Southern Belle Dairy Company.

The Reams also raised broiler chickens.

"The broiler house held 6,000 chickens," Doris recalled. "We fed and took care of them for nine weeks. Then Purina Company came, and we loaded them on a truck that took them to a processing plant in Mt. Sterling. Then we would have to clean the house and get ready for another bunch of baby chickens and start all over again."

Mackie spent two years in the U.S. Army—1955 to 1957. He then worked at Caron Spinning for 27 years and for 13 years as a door greeter at Walmart.

"I quit about three years ago," Mackie said. "My legs and knees got to bothering me, standing there all the time. So, I just quit. We just go and do whatever we want to do."

The couple walks at Kmart every morning and attend Calvary Baptist Church every Sunday morning and evening and on Wednesday.

The couple also visits Laurel County Older Person Activity Center almost every day.

"We play cards and play cornhole in the exercise room," Doris said. "We have lunch. OPAC has a lot of things to do."

Mackie said OPAC took them to Frankfort to see the Capitol.

"They took us to the state fair this year," Doris said.

They used to travel a lot.

"We've been to a lot of the states," Doris said. "We usually went with friends. We went all the way to California, driving around on two weeks of vacation. We just drove and stopped whenever we got ready."

"Niagara Falls, all up in New York and all up in that territory," Mackie added. "All over Kentucky and the United States just about."

In the '70s and '80s, Mackie and Doris were active in sports. He played baseball while Doris watched and rooted for him. They also went bowling three or four nights a week at Levi Lanes.

"We won lots of trophies," Doris said. "I also used to quilt a lot during the winter months and made crocheted afghans, but I can't anymore because of my arthritis in my hands."

Mackie first noticed Doris at her home near where he was cutting tobacco in a field. Her home was just a couple of houses down from where she now lives on Bill George Road. He was 20 years old, and she was 16.

"I saw her a few times and I just got brave enough to ask her to go out," he recalled. "I couldn't resist those pretty blond curls. That's how it started. We got to going to church together. We went together for about three years before we got married."

Mackie said he drove his father's pickup to do his courting.

"I got to drive it," he said. "I'd go get her and we'd go to church. We'd ride around and maybe go up to town on Saturday and walk up and down the streets. I never did go to the Reda (theater) with her because her family was kind of strict. They didn't want her going places like that at that time."

"My parents were old fashioned," Doris laughed. "I guess they finally decided we were going to get married anyway and agreed. They didn't like it too well, but they went ahead with it. My dad went with us to the wedding, but my mom didn't because she thought she would cry or something. We got married in the preacher's house on Oct. 3, 1953. His name was Layton Vandaventer. He's deceased now."

Doris and Mackie have been in good health for most of their lives.

"We have been very healthy and happy all our life together," they said. "We thank God for that."

The couple has two children, Eddie Reams and Phyllis Purvis, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

#### CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS ACT

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from Attorney General Holder.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,  
Washington, DC, November 3, 2011.

Hon. JON KYL,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR KYL: This responds to your letters to Attorney General Holder dated June 6, 2011, and November 2, 2011, regarding the Department of Justice's implementation and enforcement of the Crime Victims'